THE ETERNALS

MARVEL COMICS GROUP™

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

30¢ CE

4 OCT 02334

WHEN GODS WALK THE EARTH!

THE ETERNALS™

"NIGHT OF THE DEMONS!"

CAN EVEN THE COMBINED MIGHT OF *IKARUS* AND *SERSI* SAVE NEW YORK FROM THE MOST INCREDIBLE *INVASION* OF ALL?!

10 71486 02334 0

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE ETERNALS!™

A LONE FIGURE TAKES FLIGHT ACROSS THE CONCRETE CANYONS OF NEW YORK CITY... IT IS NIGHT, AND THE WATERFRONT STREETS ARE INFERNOS OF LEAPING FLAME. CRIES OF "DEVILS" AND "DEMONS" ECHO WITH FRIGHTENING EFFECT AND SCATTER THE FAINT-HEARTED WITNESSES FROM THE SCENE, BUT THE MAN WHO LEVITATES, WITH BLINDING SPEED, KNOWS THAT THE TRUTH IS FAR MORE TERRIFYING! HE IS IKARIS OF THE ETERNALS--AND TONIGHT IS--

THE NIGHT OF THE DEMONS!

EDITED, WRITTEN, AND DRAWN BY--
JACK KIRBY
INKED BY JOHN VERPOORTEN

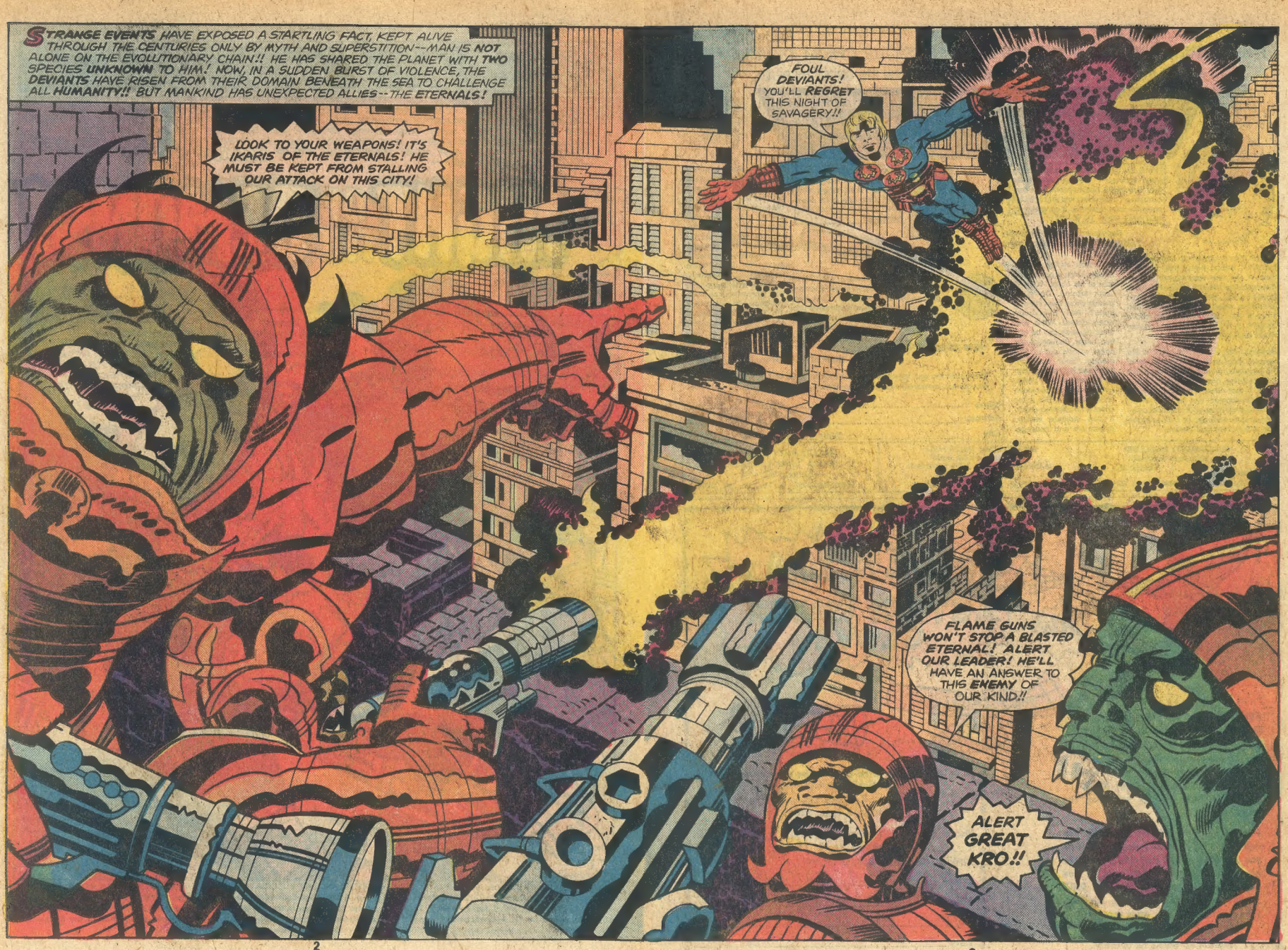
THOSE POOR HUMANS BELOW--THEY SHOUT IN SUPERSTITIOUS FEAR!!

BUT THEY ARE UNAWARE THAT THEIR CITY IS UNDER ATTACK BY DEVIANTS, THE VERY SPECIES RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEVIL-MYTHS!

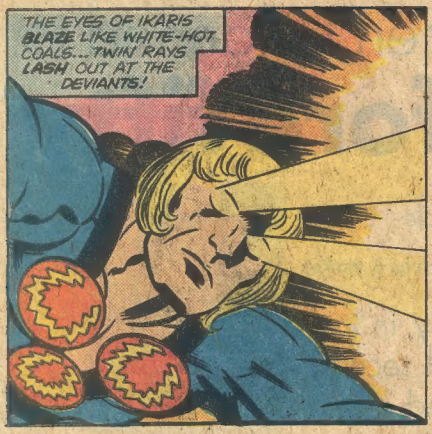
letterer: IRV WATANABE
colorist: GLYNIS WEIN
consulting editor: ARCHIE GOODWIN

JV365

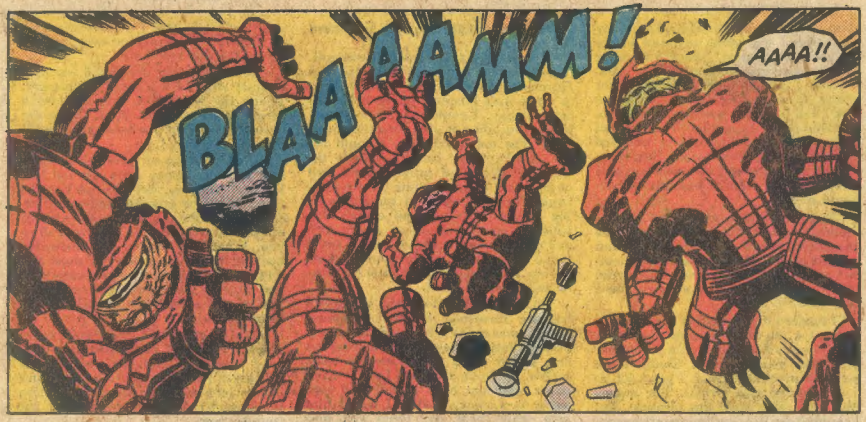
THE ETERNALS™ is published by MARVEL COMICS GROUP, OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 575 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022. Published monthly. Copyright ©1976 by Marvel Comics Group. A Division of Cadence Industries Corporation. All rights reserved 575 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022. Vol. 1, No. 4, October, 1976 issue. Price 30¢ per copy in the U.S. and Canada. Subscription rate $4.00 for 12 issues. Canada, $5.00. Foreign, $6.00. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in the U.S.A.

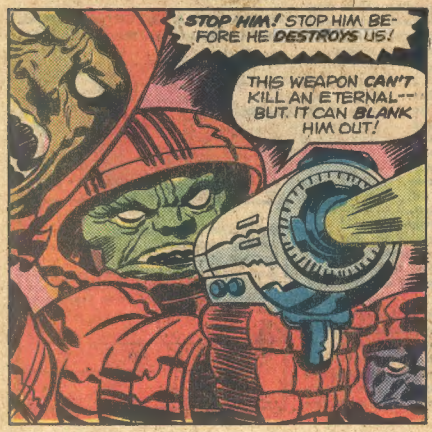


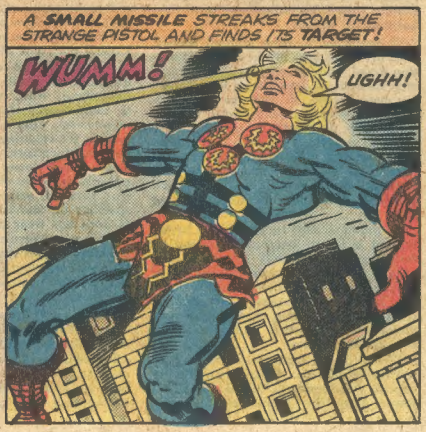
CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

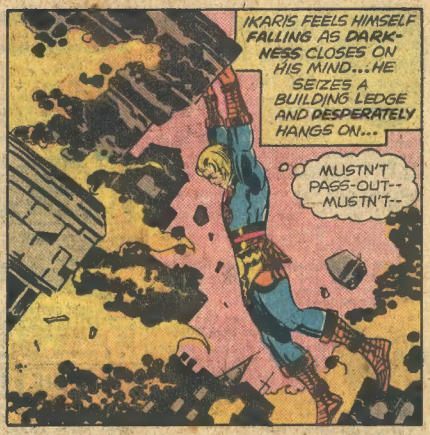

THE EYES OF IKARIS BLAZE LIKE WHITE-HOT COALS...TWIN RAYS LASH OUT AT THE DEVIANTS!

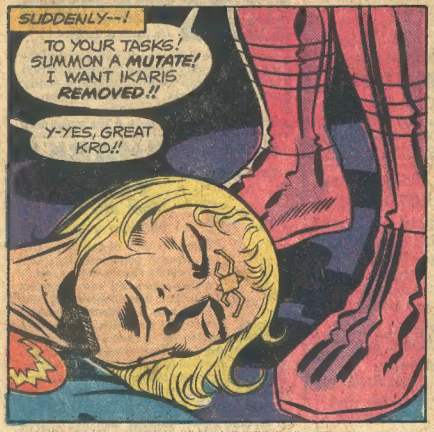
SSKKSHHHH!


BLAAAAMM!
AAAA!!


STOP HIM! STOP HIM BEFORE HE DESTROYS US!
THIS WEAPON CAN'T KILL AN ETERNAL--BUT IT CAN BLANK HIM OUT!


A SMALL MISSILE STREAKS FROM THE STRANGE PISTOL AND FINDS ITS TARGET!
WUMM!
UGHH!





CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

AT THAT MOMENT, A WINGED, MUTATED DEVIANT APPEARS, AND SEIZES THE LIMP BODY OF IKARIS!!
WHERE SHALL I TAKE HIM, GREAT KRO?
OUR RAIDING VESSEL WAITS OFF SHORE... THE OFFICER IN CHARGE WILL KNOW HOW TO DISPOSE OF HIM!

MEANWHILE, WE SHALL GIVE THESE HUMANS A GIFT OF THE SAME TERROR WHICH THEIR ANCESTORS RECEIVED FROM OUR KIND!
BECAUSE OF THE ANCIENT WARS, THE "DEVIL-MYTHS" ARE AMONG THE HUMANS--TO BECOME THE FEARSOME SUPERSTITIONS WHICH PLAGUE THEM TO THIS DAY!
NOW, WE SHALL JUSTIFY THOSE LEGENDS AND GIVE THESE HUMANS A TASTE OF THEIR REALITY!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

MEANWHILE, IN A MANHATTAN APARTMENT, TWO WOMEN WATCH THE PROGRESS OF THE BIZARRE EVENTS WHICH ARE OVERTAKING THE ENTIRE CITY..

THERE'S NO CAUSE FOR ALARM, FOLKS! BUT, ALL CITIZENS ARE ADVISED TO STAY IN THEIR HOMES! ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES ARE ON THE JOB!!

THINGS SEEM TO BE WORSENING! AND IKARIS IS SOMEWHERE OUT IN THAT MESS! I HOPE THAT HE ISN'T--

I SENSE THAT IKARIS HAS BEEN TAKEN, MARGO... BUT NEVER FEAR. HE IS AN ETERNAL! THEY CAN'T KILL HIM!

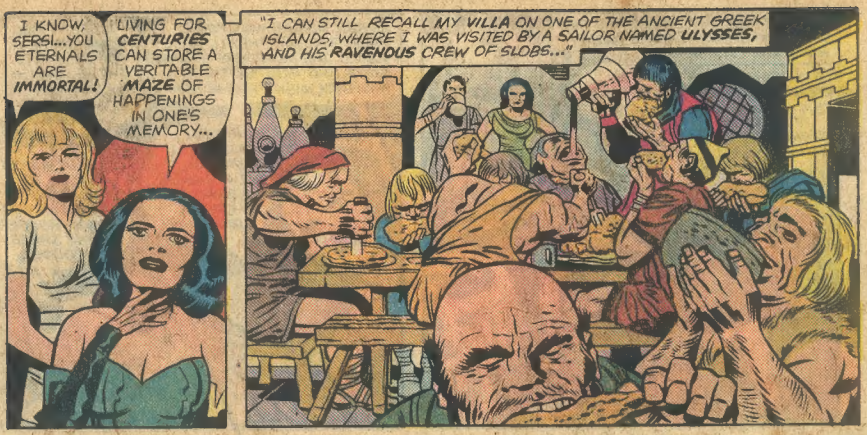
ETERNALS! DEVIANTS! WHO'D HAVE DREAMED THAT YOUR RACES EXISTED! FOR CENTURIES YOUR TWO SPECIES HAVE KEPT TO THEIR OWN DOMAINS... AND NOW THAT YOU'VE REVEALED YOURSELVES, THE WORLD SEEMS TO HAVE GONE MAD!

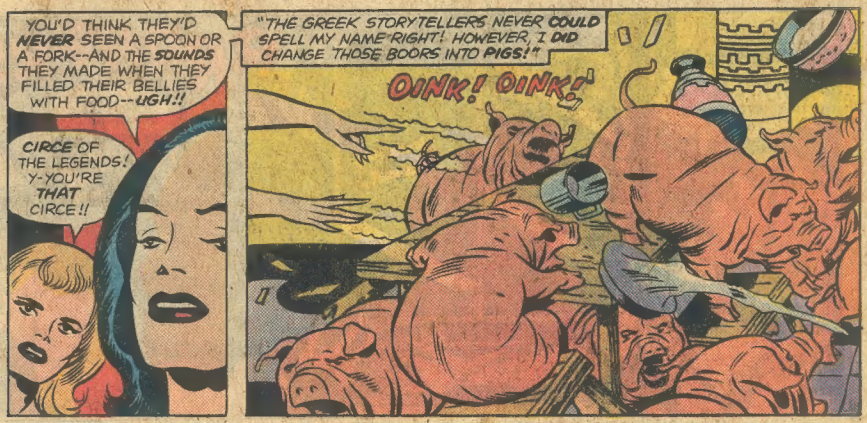
IT WAS BOUND TO HAPPEN... THE SPACE GODS HAVE COME BACK!--AND A NEW CHAPTER SHALL BE WRITTEN IN EARTH'S HISTORY!

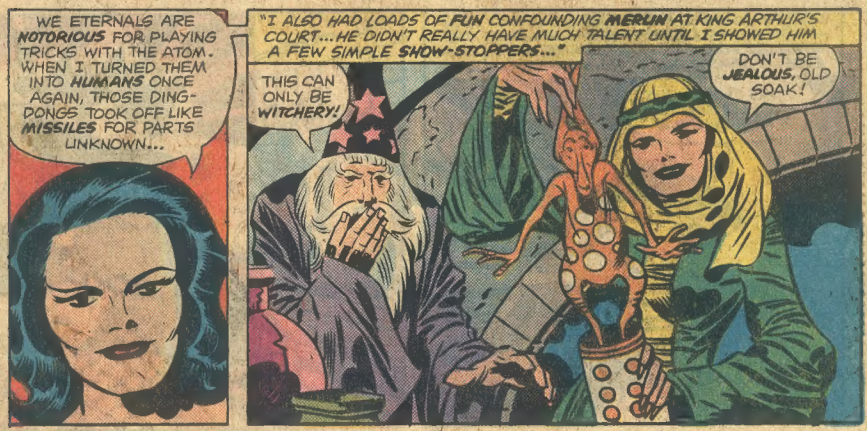
I SAW THE GODS LAND, SERS! I WAS THERE, WITH MY FATHER AND IKARIS, WHEN THEIR SHIP TOUCHED DOWN... I-IT WAS HUGE! FRIGHTENING!

IKARIS SAID THAT IT WAS THEIR EXPERIMENTS ON PREHISTORIC APES THAT PRODUCED US ALL--THE HUMANS, THE ETERNALS AND THE DEVIANTS!

YES, BUT WE DO HAVE OUR DIFFERENCES, MY DEAR...


I KNOW, SERSI...YOU ETERNALS ARE IMMORTAL!
LIVING FOR CENTURIES CAN STORE A VERITABLE MAZE OF HAPPENINGS IN ONE'S MEMORY...
"I CAN STILL RECALL MY VILLA ON ONE OF THE ANCIENT GREEK ISLANDS, WHERE I WAS VISITED BY A SAILOR NAMED ULYSSES, AND HIS RAVENOUS CREW OF SLOBS..."

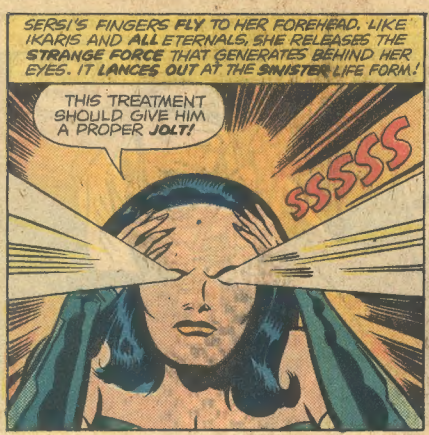

YOU'D THINK THEY'D NEVER SEEN A SPOON OR A FORK--AND THE SOUNDS THEY MADE WHEN THEY FILLED THEIR BELLIES WITH FOOD--UGH!!
CIRCE OF THE LEGENDS! Y-YOU'RE THAT CIRCE!!
"THE GREEK STORYTELLERS NEVER COULD SPELL MY NAME RIGHT! HOWEVER, I DID CHANGE THOSE BOORS INTO PIGS!"
OINK! OINK!


WE ETERNALS ARE NOTORIOUS FOR PLAYING TRICKS WITH THE ATOM. WHEN I TURNED THEM INTO HUMANS ONCE AGAIN, THOSE DING-DONGS TOOK OFF LIKE MISSILES FOR PARTS UNKNOWN...
"I ALSO HAD LOADS OF FUN CONFOUNDING MERLIN AT KING ARTHUR'S COURT...HE DIDN'T REALLY HAVE MUCH TALENT UNTIL I SHOWED HIM A FEW SIMPLE SHOW-STOPPERS..."
THIS CAN ONLY BE WITCHERY!
DON'T BE JEALOUS, OLD SOAK!

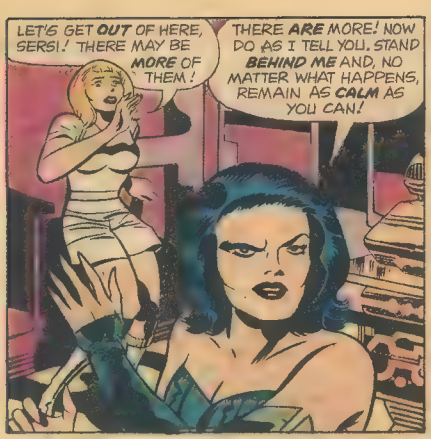
SERSI'S REMINISCENCES ARE CUT SHORT AS GREAT FLASHES ILLUMINATE THE CITY SKYLINE.
THE DEVIANTS DRAW CLOSER! YOU HUMANS WILL NEED YOUR NATIONAL GUARD TO HOLD THEM!
I-I'M FRIGHTENED, SERSI!

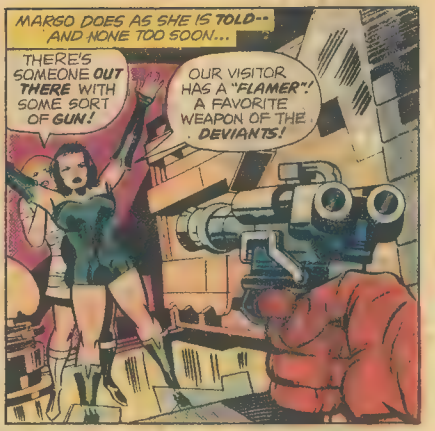
EVERY HUMAN WILL FEAR THEM TONIGHT! THEY'LL TALK ABOUT THE MONSTERS IN SPACE SUITS, AND MUSTER THEIR MILITARY MIGHT FOR ACTION!
I SEE IT ALL NOW! INSTEAD OF DEVIANTS, THOSE PLANES WILL DISCOVER THE SPACE GODS!!
BY MORNING. THE SKIES WILL BE FILLED WITH PLANES SEARCHING FOR THE SPACESHIP!
THE DEVIANTS PLAN TO INVOLVE HUMANITY IN A WAR AGAINST THE SPACE GODS!

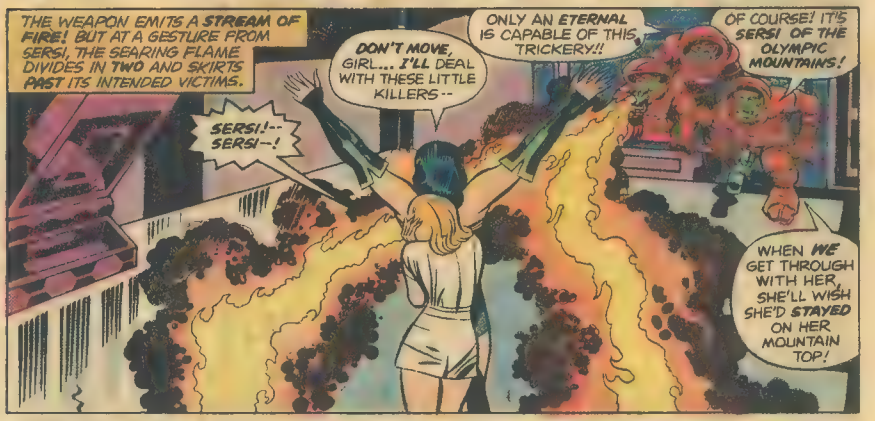
SUDDENLY--AT THE WINDOW--!
SERSI! LOOK OUT!--WHAT IS THAT HORRIBLE THING!
RRRRRR!
A DEVIANT MUTATE!

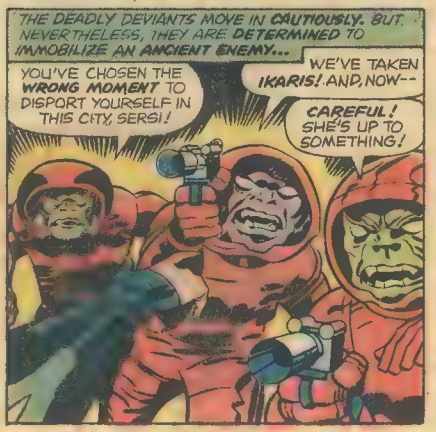

SERSI'S FINGERS FLY TO HER FOREHEAD, LIKE IKARIS AND ALL ETERNALS, SHE RELEASES THE STRANGE FORCE THAT GENERATES BEHIND HER EYES. IT LANCES OUT AT THE SINISTER LIFE FORM!
THIS TREATMENT SHOULD GIVE HIM A PROPER JOLT!
SSSSS

THEN--!!
WAM!

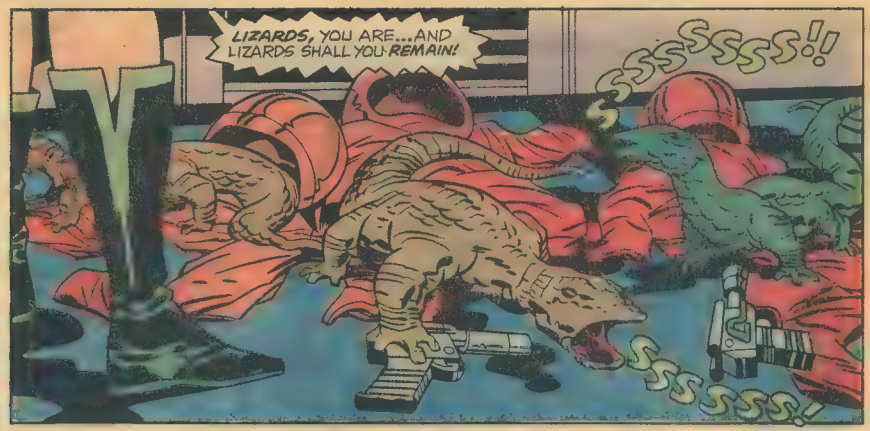




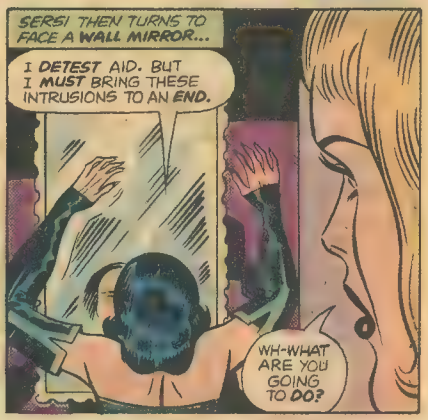


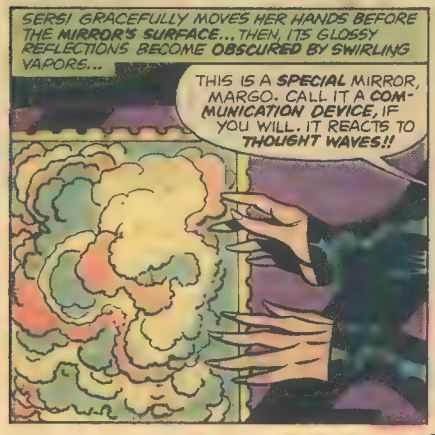


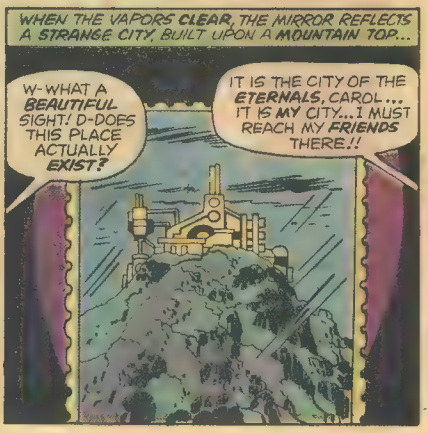
CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE


LIZARDS, YOU ARE...AND LIZARDS SHALL YOU REMAIN!
SSSSSSS!!
SSSSSSS!

OH, SERSI! I-IT'S SIMPLY HORRIBLE! W-WILL THEY ALWAYS B-BE THIS WAY?
AS LONG AS I WISH IT! BESIDES, I SOMEHOW THINK I'VE IMPROVED THEIR IMAGE!!


SERSI THEN TURNS TO FACE A WALL MIRROR...
I DETEST AID. BUT I MUST BRING THESE INTRUSIONS TO AN END.
WH-WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?


SERSI GRACEFULLY MOVES HER HANDS BEFORE THE MIRROR'S SURFACE... THEN, ITS GLOSSY REFLECTIONS BECOME OBSCURED BY SWIRLING VAPORS...
THIS IS A SPECIAL MIRROR, MARGO. CALL IT A COMMUNICATION DEVICE, IF YOU WILL. IT REACTS TO THOUGHT WAVES!!


WHEN THE VAPORS CLEAR, THE MIRROR REFLECTS A STRANGE CITY, BUILT UPON A MOUNTAIN TOP...
W-WHAT A BEAUTIFUL SIGHT! D-DOES THIS PLACE ACTUALLY EXIST?
IT IS THE CITY OF THE ETERNALS, CAROL... IT IS MY CITY...I MUST REACH MY FRIENDS THERE!!

MEANWHILE, **BENEATH** THE WATERS OF NEW YORK HARBOR, A DEVIANT **RAIDING CRAFT** LURKS IN HIDING...

HURRY, FOOLS! WE HAVEN'T GOT **ALL NIGHT!**

IKARIS HAS BEEN PLACED IN THE **CAPSULE,** SIRE!

PREPARE A TUBE FOR CAPSULE **EJECTION!**

IT IS A **RARE** PLEASURE TO DISPATCH AN **ETERNAL!** IKARIS WILL THWART US **NO LONGER.**

THAT **"BRAIN MINE"** ON HIS FOREHEAD WILL KEEP HIM **HELPLESS** AS LONG AS IT'S **ACTIVE...**

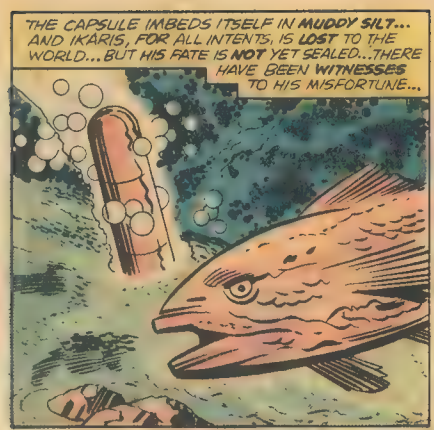
IT CAN OPERATE FOR AN **ETERNITY!** IKARIS SHOULD SLEEP FOR **MILLENIUMS!**

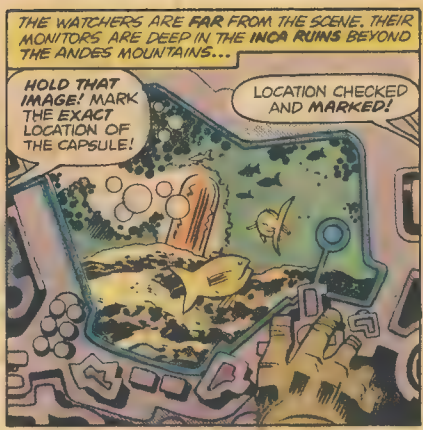
FAREWELL, IKARIS! WE DEVIANTS SHALL **NOT** MISS YOU!

A MOMENT LATER, THE CAPSULE BEARING IKARIS IS SHUNTED TO AN **EJECTION TUBE...**

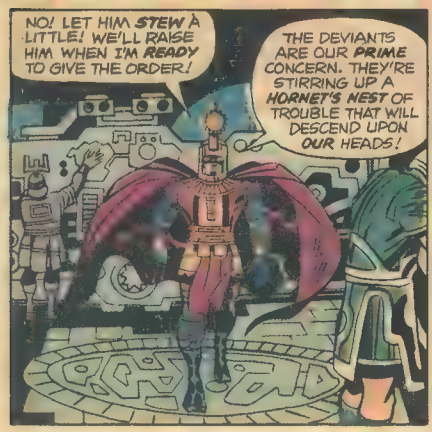
A LOUD HISS **EXPLODES** WITHIN THE TUBE...THE CAPSULE, RIDING ON A BLAST OF AIR, IS **HURLED** INTO THE COLD DEPTHS. IKARIS THE ETERNAL IS ON HIS WAY TO A SLEEP OF **CENTURIES...**

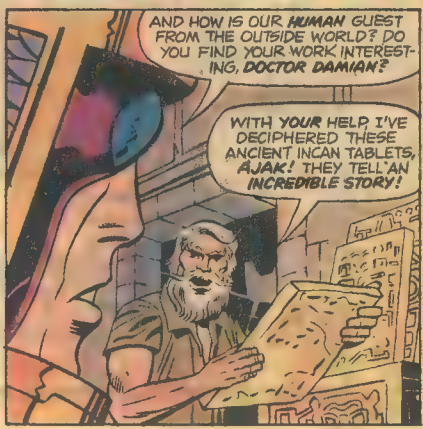
CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

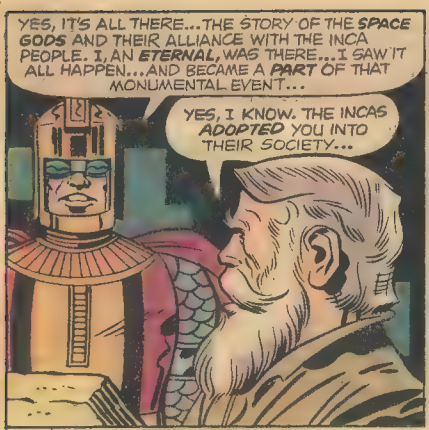

THE CAPSULE IMBEDS ITSELF IN MUDDY SILT... AND IKARIS, FOR ALL INTENTS, IS LOST TO THE WORLD... BUT HIS FATE IS NOT YET SEALED... THERE HAVE BEEN WITNESSES TO HIS MISFORTUNE...

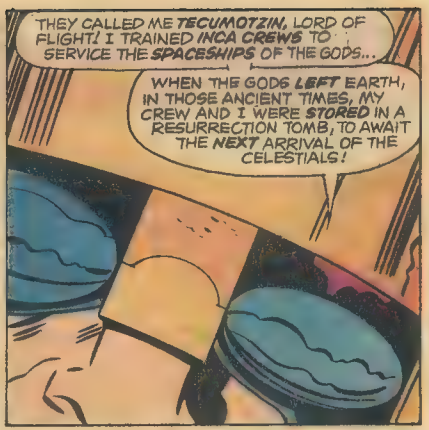

THE WATCHERS ARE FAR FROM THE SCENE. THEIR MONITORS ARE DEEP IN THE INCA RUINS BEYOND THE ANDES MOUNTAINS...
HOLD THAT IMAGE! MARK THE EXACT LOCATION OF THE CAPSULE!
LOCATION CHECKED AND MARKED!

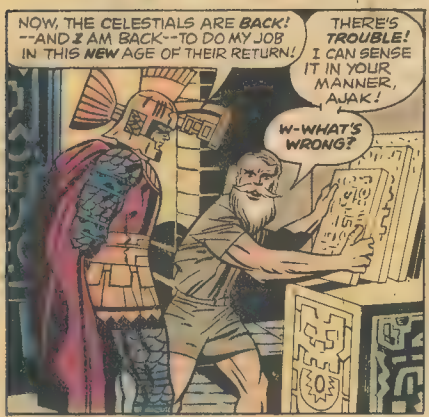
THAT FOOL, IKARIS! HE WOULD TRY TO TAKE ON AN ENTIRE FORCE OF DEVIANTS! THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS TO HEROES!
WE CAN RAISE HIM! A SIMPLE FORCE BEAM CAN DO IT!
IT KNOWS NO DISTANCE! YOUR FRIEND CAN BE REACHED IN SECONDS AND RELEASED, O LORD OF FLIGHT!

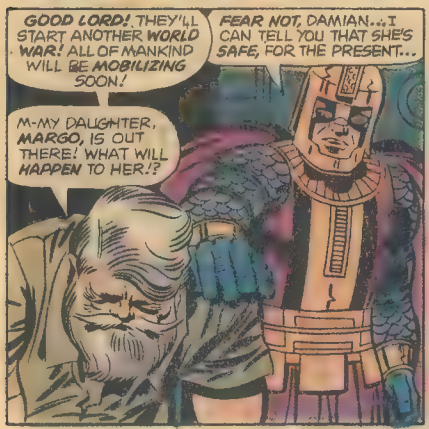

NO! LET HIM STEW A LITTLE! WE'LL RAISE HIM WHEN I'M READY TO GIVE THE ORDER!
THE DEVIANTS ARE OUR PRIME CONCERN. THEY'RE STIRRING UP A HORNET'S NEST OF TROUBLE THAT WILL DESCEND UPON OUR HEADS!

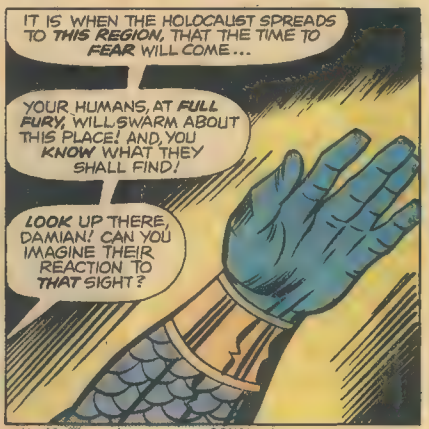

AND HOW IS OUR HUMAN GUEST FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD? DO YOU FIND YOUR WORK INTERESTING, DOCTOR DAMIAN?
WITH YOUR HELP, I'VE DECIPHERED THESE ANCIENT INCAN TABLETS, AJAK! THEY TELL AN INCREDIBLE STORY!











CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

THERE IS A LARGE OPENING IN THE **ROOF** OF THE CHAMBER... BEYOND IT, THE SKY IS BLOTTED OUT BY A **GREAT** SHADOW. IT MOVES... DRAWS CLOSE... AND RESOLVES ITSELF INTO A REALITY OF **STAGGERING IMPORT!!**

BEHOLD! IT'S ONE OF THE CELESTIAL HOST... TO MERELY **SEE** HIM IS TO MARVEL AT THE **WONDERS** THAT LIE AMONG THE STARS!

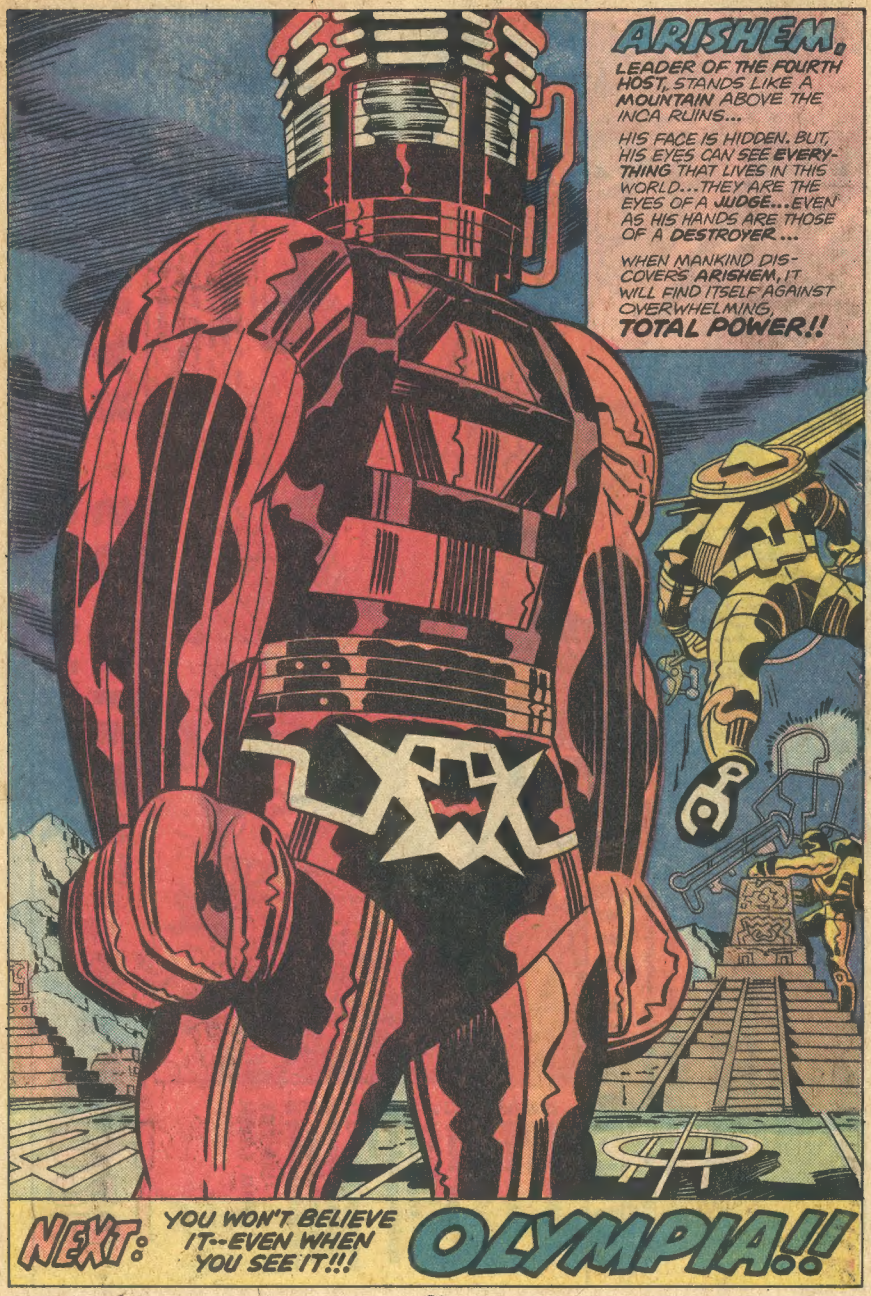
THEY FIRST LANDED ON EARTH **BEFORE** THE DAWN OF MAN--TO **RETURN** TIME AND AGAIN TO **FULFILL** THEIR MISSION...

T-THEY'RE SO **HUGE** AND ENIGMATIC! I-I FEEL LIKE AN **ANT** IN THEIR PATH! I-IT'S A **TERRIBLE** BLOW TO ONE'S EGO, TO WORK IN THEIR PRESENCE...

YOUR HUMAN BRETHREN MAY **NOT SETTLE** FOR HUMILITY, DAMIAN! THEY **WON'T** LIKE BEING SECOND BEST! **MANKIND HAS CHALLENGED THE GODS BEFORE!**

DOCTOR DAMIAN INWARDLY **CRINGES** BEFORE THIS TRUTH... HE KNOWS THAT MAN WILL ATTACK AND KILL **ANYTHING** HE FEARS. HE REALIZES, IN **DESPAIR**, WHAT MANKIND WILL DO WHEN IT COMES FACE TO FACE WITH THE **CELESTIALS...**

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING, DOCTOR! **WHAT WILL THE HUMANS DO WHEN THEY SEE HIM!?**


ARISHEM,
LEADER OF THE FOURTH HOST, STANDS LIKE A MOUNTAIN ABOVE THE INCA RUINS...
HIS FACE IS HIDDEN. BUT, HIS EYES CAN SEE EVERYTHING THAT LIVES IN THIS WORLD...THEY ARE THE EYES OF A JUDGE...EVEN AS HIS HANDS ARE THOSE OF A DESTROYER...
WHEN MANKIND DISCOVERS ARISHEM, IT WILL FIND ITSELF AGAINST OVERWHELMING, TOTAL POWER!!
NEXT: YOU WON'T BELIEVE IT--EVEN WHEN YOU SEE IT!!!
OLYMPIA!!

ETERNAL UTTERINGS

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 575 MADISON AVE. N.Y.C. 10022

And those letters just keep on pourin' into the Marvel mailbox. What are they talking about? Why, ETERNALS #1, of course! And if the response to our power-pulsin' premiere is any indication, Ikaris and Company are gonna be around for a long, long time! But enough of this happy hoo-hah! On with the letters!

Dear Marvel,

My sincerest congratulations to Jack Kirby. THE ETERNALS #1 is definitely the best work I've seen from him in a long time. The entire issue seemed to literally explode off the pages with a star-shattering force powerful enough to shake the cosmos off its foundations. I can't tell you how long its been since I was jolted like that!

Jeff Tillotson
138-44 232nd St.
Laurelton, NY 11413

Dear Marvel,

When I heard about the new Kirby "gods" series, I thought "Ho-hum!" But—wow!—was I wrong! My second thought was "Where will it fit in the Marvel Universe?" And now I know—right in the middle!

But, getting back to thought one, pages one through six show how wrong I was. Epic! That's all I can say. I'm sure this series will be the biggest, the best ever! Ikaris is great. And although we didn't see him in uniform in this first issue, I really got a thrill out of his speech about the universe. Ikaris has great possibilities, and I'm sure he won't look any weaker in front of the returning gods.

The Deviants are intriguing, too. They provide a constant threat, and should produce ample directions for storylines. I'm very glad that THE ETERNALS is monthly, because I know I couldn't wait two whole months for the next issue. All I can say is carry on. You've got a winner here!

Chris Twomey
38 Greengrove Terrace
Toronto
Canada M3A 1H9

Dear Jack,

To those of us who remember your work of a few years back, ETERNALS #1 was eagerly awaited. Well, that issue has now come and gone, and there's just the slightest smile residing upon this old letter-hack's face.

For certain, the story is just the beginning; yet that remarkable Kirby knack for involving the reader remains. It starts with the scenario involving the Damians and "Ike Harris," switches to the plane crash and our introduction to the Deviants, and finally shifts back to Ikaris and "the truth." Like a film director, Jack, you use quick vignettes to involve the audience. . . and with much success, I might add.

The first issue character introduction is also moderately carried out, being accomplished between the sequences. We still don't really know **too** much about our protagonists, but we do get an inkling of the magnitude of the life-and-death situation that is occurring. And within this framework, we start to care very much about what will happen to Ikaris and the Damians. Again, it's a classic example of Kirby's ability to get the reader involved with the story.

True, the story is not complete yet, Jack, but my interest is definitely aroused. And when that occurs, you've got me hooked! Keep up the good work!

Steven Scheibner
P.O. Box 474
Jackson Heights, NY 11372

Dear Mr. Kirby,

I would like to congratulate you on the production of the masterpiece that is THE ETERNALS.

After all the build-up given this series, I was afraid that when I finally got the first issue, it would have lost some of its anticipated grandeur. Well, my fears were groundless. I have just finished reading this imaginative first issue, and my conclusion is that ETERNALS will soon be the most sought-after comic in the field.

It is certainly too early to tell, but this cosmic sequence could well become known as one of Marvel's best, if not the best.

I know that a question often asked of the King is: "Why don't you go back to illustrating the FANTASTIC FOUR?" Well, the answer is simple. The quality of Jack's work is directly related to his interest. . . the more interest, the higher the quality. So, give the man a chance to work on his pet projects for a while. Let him bring THE ETERNALS up to the peak of quality. And who knows, in time he might work in an issue or two of the F.F., or even get together with Stan the Man for a revival of the SILVER SURFER.

Keep it coming!

Ralph Andresen Jr.
231 Faoussat Road
Oceanside, CA 92054

Thanks for all the kind words, Ralph! (And Steve and Chris and Jeff!)

While it's true that Jack's main interest these days lie mainly with THE ETERNALS and a certain red-white-and-blue gent by the name of Captain America, the King hasn't forgotten the slightly-fabulous foursome he helped guide through over a hundred issues of The World's Greatest Comic Magazine! As a matter of fact, if you check out recent covers on the ever-lovin' FANTASTIC FOUR, you'll notice Jolly Jack's hand at work—in combination with the inks of none other than Joltin' Joe Sinnott himself! And, of course, there are the other cavortin' covers that have been gracing INVADERS, THOR, MARVEL SPOTLIGHT, and MARVEL PREMIERE to name but a few.

And as long as we're thumping the old Marvel tub, don't you dare miss the CAPTAIN AMERICA BICENTENNIAL TREASURY, still on sale! It's 86-pages of *all-new* action direct from the House of Ideas.

NEXT ISSUE: Welcome to OLYMPIA! Home of the Eternals! In our far-flung fifth issue you'll see the Eternal City. . . and you'll meet more of our ever-expanding cast of characters! Like who? Like Domo, Thena, and Zuras, the eldest Eternal of all! And then there's Makarri! You'll be meeting him on page one. . . if you're here in thirty days! So don't miss out! Get ETERNALS #5. . . for the sake of the gods!

scanned by *Wizard*